

"Welcome" Pre-Shabbat Dinner

Friday, June 15, 6:15 pm

Here's what the Jew in the Pew is saying about our monthly dinners:

- ★★★ "I started the evening not knowing a soul; by the dessert, I had two new friends."
- ★★★★★ "Better than the Oneg Room for getting the scoop on CSZ happenings."
- ★★★★ "I have to eat before services. Might as well do it with the folks at CSZ."

Please join the Membership Committee for our monthly "Welcome" Pre-Shabbat Dinner on the third Friday of every month. This month we will dine and dish at Zao Noodle Bar, 16th and Market Streets, on June 15. This informal "pay-your-own-way" gathering is for prospective members, new members and seasoned members to get to know each other in a more informal and relaxed setting.

Please RSVP to either Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com) or the office (415/861-6932, office@shaarzahav.org). We look forward to having you join us.

CSZ Celebrates Israel!

Munching on falafel and hummus, the CSZ Israel Havurah held its first gathering of the millennium on Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel Independence Day - on April 26. The evening began with a celebratory dinner held jointly with the Ritual Committee, at which Rabbi Angel invoked a participatory blessing. Those present expressed their hopes for peace, safety, freedom and tolerance in Israel.

Attendees included women and men, new members and old, native sabras and Americans who have visited Israel only once or twice. Despite their varieties of experience, all agreed that Israel plays an important role in their lives, and that there is a strong need to enhance the level of awareness and understanding of Israel within the CSZ community. "That's why we're all here," said Miki Gorsky, who was raised in Israel and who serves as co-chair of the Israel Havurah.

Together, the group drafted a mission statement and a set of goals, with members tossing out thoughts and ideas, and co-chair Ron Lezell recording them. The statement reads, in part, "Our relationship to Israel is central to our identity as Jewish Americans and as members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. We are com

continued on page 11

Art Shabbaton: Creating Works of Beauty

"Let us praise the Eternal One who has implanted within us the ability to create and appreciate works of beauty." This blessing came to life at CSZ with the first annual Art Shabbaton on April 20-22. As the music of Karen Segal and Nicole Bloom opened our hearts to prayer at the Kabbalat Shabbat service, we began a journey. Rabbi Angel's inspiring words, Marsha Attie's moving dance, Ruby Cymrot-Wu's reading of the poetry of the Holocaust, and the soothing song of "Peace to My Brothers and Friends," moved us from Holocaust remembrance to rebirth, creativity, and life.



Photo by Batya Kalis.
Sara Haber, Rabbi Angel, Phyllis Mintzer,
Jeanette Nicols, Daryl Goldman

"The Art Shabbaton was an inspiring experience filled with creativity, imagination, passion and joy. We used our hearts, hands and minds as we fulfilled the mitzvah of *Hiddur*, making our sacred space even more beautiful. I am already looking forward to the next Art Shabbaton," said Rabbi Camille Angel. "Everyone was happy!"

Saturday focused on music, contemplation, study, drama,

continued on page 4

Kol Yad Campaign Reminder

Our Kol Yad (Every Hand) fundraising campaign is now in full swing and continues until June 3. We ask everyone, members and friends, to contribute the value of one day of your work to keep our congregation financially strong. If you have not yet sent in your pledge form (included with last month's JGF; more are available at CSZ), we hope you will take the time to do so now.

We also invite everyone to join us for our first annual Kol Yad Celebration on June 3. We will start at about 12:15 pm, at the conclusion of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Come enjoy good food, music and spirit, and help us honor and thank our first year Kol Yad contributors.



Rabbi Angel

Just as a person lights one candle from another and the original flame is not diminished, so too, we are never lessened when we pass our internal flame to another person.

Numbers Rabbah 13:19

Looking back on my first ten months with Sha'ar Zahav, through my transition, I cannot imagine a more responsive, attentive, confident and articulate president than David Gellman. I have so appreciated David's mindful guardianship, which I believe has served me and our congregation exceedingly well. With love and devotion, David has shepherded us, carefully focusing on the present while keeping a watchful eye on the big picture. I have benefited from our regular and frequent meetings and have felt fortunate that in spite of David's many professional responsibilities, he has always put me and the synagogue's business first.

David Gellman will leave an indelible mark upon the history and destiny of Sha'ar Zahav. I would like to thank him personally for his work and for our friendship. He leaves the presidency in great hands, as Lisa Katz, a long-time devoted member of our Congregation and a leader of rare conviction and commitment, assumes the presidency on July 1. Best wishes to both distinguished leaders.

I want to thank each of the officers and Vaad members who have completed

continued on page 10

Rabbi Liaison Committee Update

Since its formation last fall, the Rabbi Liaison Committee has met approximately monthly to support Rabbi Angel as she assumes the complex and demanding responsibilities of her rabbinate. Our meetings have been devoted to three areas of support: planning and hosting the parlor sessions for members to meet and interact with Rabbi Angel, clarifying specific expectations and helping her establish reasonable parameters and priorities within her general job description, and listening to her as she reflects upon various issues that she wishes to think through with us. We also report on feedback that we have received from congregants.

Recently we have discussed the structure of our committee in terms of tenure and composition. We feel that all current members should remain on the committee for a year. After that, some members will rotate off to allow for new voices or constituencies to be represented, while maintaining the continuity and effective working relationship that we are developing. As we stated in our letter to the congregation last fall, we welcome your input in addition to any direct communication that you feel comfortable directing to Rabbi Angel. You may address any communication to Allan Gold, Chair, via email (agold8946@aol.com) or via a letter to the office.

Olive Trees For Peace

Etz chayim hi l'makhazikim bah - Etz chayim hi, l'shalom

A Tree of Life she is, for those who hold her close -A Tree of Life for Shalom.



justice for all. This year plant a seed of hope and work actively towards bringing peace to the Middle East.

Please join us at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on June 2, when Ilan Vitemberg will discuss the 2001 Trees of Hope Campaign sponsored by the Coalition of Jews for Justice, and A Jewish Voice for Peace, Bay Area coalitions working for

This year, plant an olive tree for peace! Come listen and discuss, be moved to take action, while learning about an innovative grassroots approach to peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The "Trees for Hope" campaign helps to raise awareness of, and funds for, replanting some of the thousands of olive trees that, due to settlement expansion, have been destroyed in the Palestinian village of Hares. The uprooting of these olive trees deprives the villagers of Hares of their livelihood and contradicts the Jewish value of jus-

peace between Israelis and Palestinians. You are invited to arrive at 6 pm for a light dinner, followed at 6:30 by the presentation and discussion. Havdalah will follow.

This event is part of an International Campaign in coordination with the Israeli organization Rabbis for Human Rights, the only Israeli rabbinic organization that includes Reform, Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis.

For more information, please contact CSZ Program Director Dahlia Gross at cszdahlia@yahoo.com or 415/575-4961.

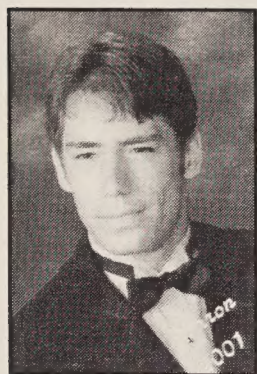
Annual Congregational Seder a Success

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's members, together with family and friends, gathered on the second night of Passover for our annual community seder. Over 150 people joined together to tell the story of our Exodus from Egypt.

It was wonderful to have the seder led for the very first time by Rabbi Camille Angel along with one of our founders, Daniel Chesir, and seasoned seder leader Sarita Groisser.

Special thanks to Mike Klayman, Prudence Carter and Jeff Sherman for making charoset in quantity and variety to satisfy every palate. Thanks also to the set-up crew, Andrea Guerra, Dvora Honigstein, Nol Simonse and Jeff Sherman and to on-site coordinator, Rose Katz.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav from Cradle to College *by Lisa Ochs*



Danvers Street, and whose earliest memories of CSZ include falling asleep under the pews.

When we asked Aaron about his best memories of CSZ, the first name he mentioned was his Kadimah teacher, Phyllis Mintzer. "I think Phyllis has been an important influence in my life because she's such a great person. She's one of the reasons that I try to be a great person, too. She gave so much support. When I was little and fooling around in class, she'd put her hand on my shoulder and calm me down." Aaron also has very fond memories of Rabbi Kahn, another great influence. Aaron also wants to thank his moms, Diana Buchbinder and Joyce Garay; his bar mitzvah tutor, Howard Goldberg; Daniel Chesir, who taught him trope; Sandrine Hahn, his teacher; and George Muntzer, "because he has always been kind and helpful to me."

Aaron enjoyed Kadimah. "The Hebrew School was pretty small. Evan Kuluk's class was one class above mine. They were always the big kids. We looked up to them so much. It was a nice experience." Although he remembers being pretty nervous at his bar mitzvah, he was relieved that it went well. "It was fun watching the older kids' bar mitz-

vahs. I especially remember Max Ross-off Nichols'." Since graduating from Kadimah, Aaron has returned to tutor Adam Sigal and Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan.

One thing he particularly liked about CSZ as a child, Aaron reports, is that "you were allowed to have fun. I probably would have been resistant to a much more formal synagogue," Aaron says. "I might not have managed to get the education that I did or wish to continue. I think Sha'ar Zahav set the foundation. After Kadimah, I realized that I wanted to do something with my Jewish education. The underlying Jewish principles helped shape me as a person. A lot of who I am comes from my experiences at Sha'ar Zahav."

It was after his bar mitzvah, Aaron says, that Judaism took on heightened importance. "I think that's when you realize what Judaism, your education, background and beliefs mean to you. That's what I found at Midrasha. I started to value it on my own and just incorporated it." Midrasha holds classes on Sundays for Bay Area Jewish teenagers. Aaron has been attending classes since eighth grade and graduates this month. "Each year you study a different core curriculum and also take electives. Classes range from Jewish identity, Bible study and Kabalah to Hebrew and Yiddish. It's really great to get together with other Jewish people from other places in the Bay Area and just share ideas. You talk about your faith and your experiences." Aaron's favorite class has been Jewish Mysticism. "Midrasha is a good way to build relationships and stay in touch. It's really intellectually stimulating. You

can relax, think and trade ideas. It's hands-on and up-to-date. It's cool."

In addition to attending Midrasha, Aaron enjoys listening to and playing music. He has played football and soccer and is taking three advanced placement classes. In the fall he will attend U.C. Santa Cruz, where he plans to study psychology. Over winter break Aaron travelled to Nicaragua with a group and worked with a Peace Corps volunteer. After college he plans to join the Peace Corps.



As if all that weren't enough, Aaron has chanted Torah several times at CSZ High Holiday services. "My sister and I used to dread it," he said. "My mom would just sign us up and then she'd tell us two weeks before the time. One year I made her chant it with me." Despite this, Aaron appreciates the uniqueness of CSZ. "It ties together gays and lesbians and Jews so I associate both of them in my mind. Being in a Jewish atmosphere and in an open-minded atmosphere, are both really great for me. I started off in a position where I can see the world differently from everybody else. I think it definitely

continued on page 10



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improvisation, reading from Lou Hirschmann's novel, and ended with Israeli dancing. Sunday workshops included making tallit bags, mizrachim, cartooning, dancing Hebrew letters, silk painting and a dramatic reading. The children enjoyed tie-dyeing, mural painting, fimo sculpting and nigunim chanting, as did many adults.

The centerpiece of the weekend was the creation of a wonderful silk-painted banner to adorn our synagogue. It was a collaborative effort, involving text study, discussion, interpretation and the development of a design under the guidance of Nancy Katz, artist-in-residence. Even people who denied any artistic ability proudly created a communal work of art based on a quote from *Pirke Avot* (*Sayings of Our Ancestors*).

We wish to thank the many people who contributed: Rabbi Angel, the Va'ad, the service leaders, artists and other workshop leaders (*madrichim*), aides, office staff, greeters, those who set up and cleaned up, and everyone else who helped out. Thanks to: Rabbi Camille Angel, Steve Weitz, Jonathan Funk, Nicole Bloom, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Karen Segal, Marsha Attie, Ruth Rainero, Eva Konigsberg, José Luis Mosco-

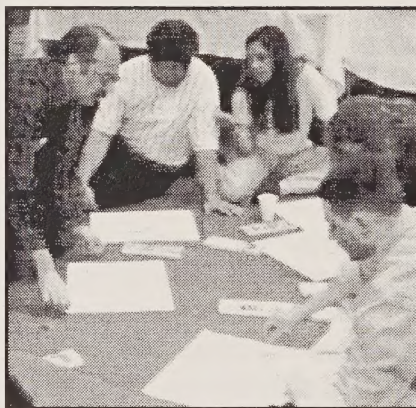


Photo by Batya Kalis.
Joe Hample, Retnares Susbilla,
Lea Salem, Lisa Ochs, Ray Bernstein

vich, Rachel Kliegman, Alan Gordon, Phyllis Mintzer, Riqi Kosovske, Greer Hauptman, Ali Cannon, Aisha Berger, Rebecca Wiener, Darah Wallsten, Lou Hirschmann, Ellen Goldstein, Barbara Cymrot, Jeanette Nichols, Nancy Katz, Beth Sousa, Caryn Aviv, Ann Aptaker, Jeni Markowitz, Jaron Kanegson, Andrea Guerra, Amy Clark, Debbie Levy, Trudi Hauptman, Simcha Green-span, Terry Baum, Dahlia Gross, Lea Salem, Melanie Kushnir, Max, Megan Saperstein, Nol Simonse, James Carlson, Diana Buchbinder, Marc Wernick, Lyssa Friedman, Ida Kuluk, Annie Downs, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Tory Weiser, Batya Kalis, Daryl Goldman, Ray Bernstein, Lonnie Weiss, Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod. We

also want to thank all the participants who created in so many ways and took risks to share themselves.

This is only the beginning. The Art Shabbaton kicked off a month of artistic activities at CSZ. If you are interested in facilitating art activities at CSZ, feel free to contact Barbara Cymrot, Jeanette Nichols or Phyllis Mintzer through Dahlia Gross at 415/575-4961.



Photo by Batya Kalis.
Judy Macks and Dafna Wu

Sukkot in April Another Success!

On April 29, the sun came up bright and clear as we assembled at the Ingleside home of Alma Abney. Over two dozen volunteers, under the kind, enthusiastic and highly competent leadership of our Crew Captain, Josh Greenblatt, spent the day accomplishing a whole host of chores for Ms. Abney.

We were able to repaint the exterior of her home, remove and replace a steel security door, and completely rebuild her front steps. Most dramatic was the change in the backyard: chaotic, knee-high weeds were transformed into a neat and tidy garden with a new retaining wall, multiple beds of annuals and a small vegetable patch. Inside the house we hung new fixtures, put up some shelving and installed new locks.

Thanks to all the folks from our Sha'ar Zahav family who made so dramatically concrete the concept of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). (Apologies in advance for any typos and omissions, as some of the names on our sign-up sheet were difficult to read.) Thanks to: Josh Greenblatt, Laura Lowe, Alex Ingersoll, Richard Brand, Nancy Brunn, Alex Davido, David Gorbet, Jennifer Gorbet, Alan Gordon, Beth Gould, Tia Koret Pierce, Clarissa Kripke, Nancy Levin, Gail Ludwig, Ron Miguel, Michael Schaffer, Ruthy Talansky, Darah Wallsten, Abby Wizansky, Anthony Talonsky, Prudence Carter, E. Gould, Jeff Piade, Janis Portal, Richard Meyerson, Susan Buseck.

If picking up a tool (or even a frying pan) to help repair our world sounds like fun, please contact Laura Lowe of our Social Action Committee and get involved.

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

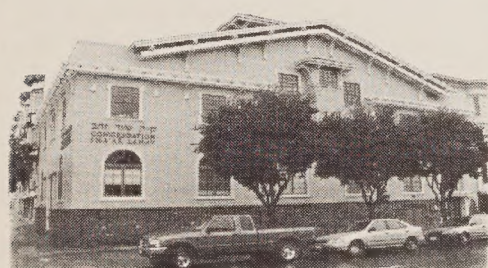
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Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

June 2001 Volume 24, Issue 9.



Pinat Mishpachah

Family Corner

Kadimah had an amazing year this time around. With huge successes in pilot family education programs such as our Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Service, and our new Ga'avah parent and child class, we had a blast!

This year's Kitah Vav class explored the Bay Area with eyes open wide, Kitah Bet worked hard gathering tzedakah, Kitah Hay studied world Jewry, and Kitah Gimel told stories of heroes past and present.

We can't wait to begin another year in the fall. We wish you kayitz tov (a good summer), and we'll meet you in the fall ready to roar!

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June-Sivan/Tammuz

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3	12 Sivan	4	13 Sivan	5	14 Sivan	6	
• 10:30 am - Congregational Meeting <i>please see important information below</i> • 12:15 am - Kol Yad Celebration		• 2-3 pm - Healing Service with Bay Area Jewish Healing Center		• 6-7 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew with Phyllis Mintzer		• 7 pm - JGF New Editing	
10	19 Sivan	11	20 Sivan	12	21 Sivan	13	
• 7 pm - JGF Newsletter Layout		• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting		• 6-7 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew with Phyllis Mintzer			
17	26 Sivan	18	27 Sivan	19	28 Sivan	20	
24	3 Tammuz	25	4 Tammuz	26	5 Tammuz	27	
Pride Parade							

Annual Meeting Materials Transmitted Electronically

Please join us for the annual congregational meeting on June 3rd at 10:30 am. This year we will be voting on proposals to modify the Bylaws Dues Policy of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav as well as on the proposed budget and the Officers and Va'ad members for the coming year.

CSZ policy is to provide the entire membership with a packet in advance of the annual meeting. This year in an effort to save paper, time and money we have posted these materials on a special section of our website and which is accessible only to members. We have also sent a hard copy to all members to whom we do not have a current email address. If you cannot access the electronic file or would prefer to receive a hard copy please contact the office.

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need updates.

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT	
		1 10 Sivan		2 Shabbat Nasso 11 Sivan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:06 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Ruth Schoenbach 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Ora Prochovnick • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 6 pm - Trees for Peace Discussion and Havdalah 	
15 Sivan	7 16 Sivan	8 Lag B'Omer 17 Sivan		9 Shabbat Beha'aloscha 18 Sivan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:10 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Howard Steiermann and Karen Segal 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Dev Felder Noily Bat Mitzvah of Laura Lowe • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 3 pm - Singing Havurah 	
22 Sivan	14 23 Sivan	15 24 Sivan		16 Shabbat Shelach 25 Sivan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:15 pm - Welcome Dinner • 7:15 pm - East Bay Potluck and Services • 8:13 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Nicole Bloom, Randy Weiss and Josh Shuster Lefkowitz 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Alan Gordon and Ina Fried • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah 	
Sivan	21 30 Sivan	22 1 Tammuz		23 Shabbat Korach 1 Tammuz	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 pm - Adult Education Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:15 pm - Shabbat Pride Dinner • 8:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Gay Pride Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Steve Weitz 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Michael Sarid • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah 	
		Shabbat Pride			
6 Tammuz	28 7 Tammuz	29 8 Tammuz		30 Shabbat Chukat 9 Tammuz	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:16 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Mark Gershman and Lyssa Friedman Aufruf of Mike Bromberg and Ken Repp 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah 	

Corrections:

In the April issue of the JGF, the naches for Ali Cannon should have read: "To Ali Cannon, on **his** recent production of *Chutzpah: Homeland, A Queer Jewish Show* which recently ran at Luna Sea Theater." We apologize for mis-identifying him. Ali is a proud transgender member of our congregation. He identified as a lesbian for many years and carries that history with him.

And, in the May issue of the JGF, the final naches should have read: "To Greer Hauptman and **Aaron Buchbinder** on their graduation from Midrasha...". Our sincerest apologies to Aaron for the mistake.

Why Is This Member Different From All Other Members? *by Marc Wernick*



Howard Rubin is that nice Jewish boy that your mother always talks about. He is bright, articulate... and a doctor! And for those of us who like people with a bit of an edge, Howard is not

shy about expressing his point of view, often blending the rational and scientific with the cultural and creative.

Howard was born and raised "in the shadows of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, in the land of Saturday Night fever, in that patch of green in the concrete jungle called Brooklyn" (his words, not mine). Perhaps his unique approach can be explained by the diverse experiences he had growing up. While raised in a Reform household, his parents sent him to a Conservative yeshiva for elementary school.

Howard came out "with a vengeance" in medical school and became active in the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People in Medicine Task Force of the American Medical Association. In fact, he met his partner, Gene, at a gay medical school party shortly after he came out.

Howard became interested in the field of psychiatry in large part due to his exposure to Holocaust survivor and psychotherapist, Victor Frankel's works. In 1999, Howard finished his schooling and shifted to clinical work here in San Francisco. He is currently overseeing two outpatient clinics for the City of San Francisco. His work with the homeless outreach program is the most rewarding for him. "Often small interventions can mean a lot. We had a patient who carried around a radio. His radio was stolen. By replacing it, we really helped him. The sounds of the radio helped to distract him from the voices he was hearing."

Howard's process of integrating being Jewish and gay is interesting. "My father's reaction to my coming out was to label homosexuality a personality disorder against God," he explained. For most of the time he was in medical school, he really did

not actively practice Judaism. Later, he began to reassess things. "I took the day off for Yom Kippur, but I did not go to shul. I was angry. I ate," he explained.

But that experience started his search for more gay positive experiences. He joined the gay Jewish group in San Diego and later affiliated with BCC in Los Angeles. "I wanted to continue that terrific experience here in San Francisco, so I joined Sha'ar Zahav."

With June being Gay Pride month, the questions we asked Howard focused on themes of pride.

1. Why are you proud to be a Jew?

"Being Jewish is an innate part of who I am. How can I not be?" retorts Howard. "Being Jewish is so fundamental to my being - it is the spiritual underpinning of my life, it is uppermost in my mind and my being, and it informs my actions and thoughts."

2. If you were to create a Jewish holiday that is similar to Pride, what would it look like?

Howard would combine elements of Simchat Torah and Passover. "There would be dancing with the Torah and story-telling of freedom and liberation. We would take it to the streets!" he explains jubilantly. Howard explains his vision of the holiday from a spiritual standpoint: "The holiday would be about making the Jewish spirit and energy as accessible as possible to the entire community."

3. What is the relationship between Gay Pride and Judaism?

"It is about coming to terms with, and celebrating, who you are," states Howard. He shares his feelings that it has at times been difficult to be a gay male Jew. "From my point of view, Judaism has not been so open to gay people. Judaism has always been so child oriented - 'You shall teach your child....' And my gay identity has made it difficult to pass things on to the next generation," he explains. Despite the tension Howard feels about this, he views Gay Pride as an opportunity to become more fully who you are and to challenge pre-existing barriers and prejudice.

4. There was been a lot of debate recently about the Conservative movement's point of view on same-sex marriages. What is your point of view?

Howard views the discussion of the issue as an important first step in acknowledging and accepting homosexuality. "We can't afford to alienate our own. It is a *shanda* (a shame). Howard believes that some gays would feel more comfortable spiritually with a more Conservative liturgy, but because of the Reform movement's more progressive attitude towards homosexuality, they have found a home within the Reform movement. "This creates a different tension within a primarily GLBT synagogue," he notes.

We are very proud to have Howard as part of our community. Please join me in welcoming him to Sha'ar Zahav.

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Marc Lipschutz, in honor of Laura Lowe's becoming bat mitzvah.

Stephanie Hannaford and Chris Witzel, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the synagogue office.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Rod Leslie
Janis Portal

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Marc Wernick, in memory of Norma Faini-Pick.

Geraldine Barr and Maxine Epstein, in memory of Bernyce Epstein.

Marilyn and Aaron Levine.

Mark Mackler, in honor of the Donohue-Klaiman Family.

Michele Sullivan, in memory of Marion LeMeteyer.

Miriam Grant.

Nancy Meyer, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Rafael Mandelman.

Ron Lezell, in memory of Howard Mackler.

Rona and Karl Schmidt, in memory of James Freedgood.

Rose Katz, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Norma Faini-Pick.

Roy B. Unger, in honor of Susan and Steve Unger.

Sadie Katz, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.

Heather Fox, in honor of Lea Salem.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Steve Horowitz, in memory of Michael Lipson.

Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner, in honor of Jim Frazin and Louisa Stone.

Library Fund

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Howard Mackler.

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Howard Mackler.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Howard Mackler.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Shirley Schickler.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Nicole Bloom and Sarita Groisser.

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Hal Podgur, in memory of Mollie Podgur.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ron Gertz.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Norma Faini-Pick.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Hyman Icke.

Heather Fox, in gratitude for the congregation's ongoing prayers, care and concern.

Batya Kalis, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Florence Nacamulli, Sharyn Saslafsky and Randy Weiss.

Hal Podgur, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Robert Stern.

Steve Weiner, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Children's Education Fund

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in memory of Jerome Barr.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Bobbie Becker, in memory of Robert Becker.

Fishman-Kane Family, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the anniversary of Phyllis and George Mintzer.

Bobbie Becker, in memory of Marty Becker.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in honor of Aaron Buchbinder's and Greer Hauptman's graduating from Midrasha.

Bobbie Becker and Ellen Press, in memory of Reuven Closter.

Fishman-Kane Family, in memory of Elijah Silverrod Maclachlan.

Lonnie Weiss, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Fishman-Kane Family, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Lisa Ochs, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.

Steve Wiesner, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Heather and David Fox, in memory of Louise Fox.

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Tom Yazman.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in honor of Jeff Friedman's status as ABD in his doctoral program.

Prayerbook Fund

Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Henrietta Lois Freedman.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of the anniversary of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal and in honor of Rabbi Angel's birthday.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, in memory of Doug Porter.

Prudence Carter, in honor of Nicole Bloom.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Ann Schmier.

Allan Berenstein, in appreciation of Rabbi Camille Angel's support.

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Phyllis Litman.

Louisa Stone.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of the anniversary of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal.

Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Jim Frazin, in memory of Morris Shapiro.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Gary Cohen.

Marc Wernick, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Melanie Kushnir and Alex Davido, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Ron Lezell, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Nanci Stern.

Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Marc Wernick, in honor of Laura Lowe's becoming bat mitzvah.

Rabbi's Column

continued from page 2

their terms of service and who will be leaving their positions at the end of June. These include: Lyssa Friedman (Vice President), Jacob Rothman and Susan Unger (Va'ad), and Diana Buchbinder (ex-officio member of the Va'ad). Your generosity of time and energy has been an invaluable gift to our community. We cannot begin to appreciate your efforts enough. Your leadership and commitment to partnership has created a solid foundation for our future together. In a very short amount of time, you have enabled me to feel at home and appreciated, as well as empowered to cultivate my own vision and leadership. You have honored my intention to listen and learn as much as I can this year about who we are, where we have come from and where we want to be headed. Todah Rabah! A great many thanks!

I am grateful, as well, for the Va'ad's support in bringing the Alban Institute to our congregation. Now that we've had three congregational meetings to discuss the report and recommendations, we can look forward to implementing some of the ideas.

I continue to feel a deep sense of blessing being here in this amazing congregation. In this month of pride, I wish you and your loved ones joy and jubilation.

See you in shul!

Aaron Buchbinder

continued from page 3

made me more open-minded. I don't really see any barriers between anybody – religion or race or sex or anything.”

Aaron plans to continue his Jewish education and involvement throughout his life. “A lot of people at Santa Cruz are Jewish and some people from Midrasha are going. Judaism – especially my experience with Sha'ar Zahav Judaism – is just something that I plan to take on the road with me. It's really helped build my character and I'll have it with me for the rest of my life. When I grow up, hopefully I'll have some kids and I definitely want to take them to Sha'ar Zahav and try to give them the exact experience that I had.”

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 415/575-4961
Education office, 415/575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

CSZ Staff:

Rabbi, Camille Shira Angel
- rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org
Administrator, Lea Salem
- lsalem@shaarzahav.org
Program Director, Dahlia Gross
- cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Director of Children's Education
- Riqi Kosovske
- educator@shaarzahav.org
Kadimah Head Teacher,
- Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant,
Melanie Kushnir
- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org
Jewish Family Educator,
Jeni Markowitz
- familyeducator@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

President, David Gellman
(415/550-9449),
- sfgellman@aol.com or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President, Lisa Katz
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman
Treasurer, James Carlson
Recorder, Nancy Kates

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Howard Herman
Howard Steiermann
Rose Katz
Laura Lowe
Drew Parker-Rose
Jacob Rothman
Jeffrey Sherman
Susan Unger
Ami Zusman

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, Allan Berenstein, Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy, Rachel Maclachlan, Deborah Udin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa and Daphne Stuart
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Liz Schaffer
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues, James Carlson, Tiela Chalmers, Lisa Katz, Drew Parker-Rose, Mike Zimmerman
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein
Finance, James Carlson
Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot
Fundraising, Arthur Slepian
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell and Michal Goralsky
La'atid, open
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Bernard Schertzer
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership/Kesher, Marianne Balin
Membership Outreach, Tony Harris
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Ellie Cohen
Newsletter, Karen Schiller
- kschiller@igc.org
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky and Marc Wernick
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Nicole Bloom
- bloomn@netscape.net
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Deena Lahn
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Israel

continued from page 1

mitted to bringing a wide variety of issues related to Israel 'out of the closet' at CSZ, in a supportive context. We recognize that it is not possible, nor necessarily desirable, to reach consensus on political issues relating to Israel. The havurah is dedicated to deepening connections to the people, culture, history and land of Israel."

In that spirit, the havurah decided to pursue two objectives. The first is to forge links with the organized LGBT community in Israel, a vibrant, successful yet struggling community which has sought financial and moral support from the Jewish LGBT community in the United States. Specifically, the Agudah, which is the Israeli LGBT community's umbrella organization, is seeking to increase its international membership, and to borrow gay-positive Jewish rituals and values from its American counterparts in communities like CSZ. You'll be hearing more about the Agudah in future editions of the *Forward*.

A second goal is to bring Israeli culture to the CSZ community. There are a host of opportunities to experience the music, theater, art, literature and food of Israel right here in the Bay Area, and the havurah will be planning some Israel-centered cultural programs for CSZ members in the near future. Other goals include re-establishing CSZ's support for the Reform Zionist Movement (ARZA/World Union for Progressive Judaism), and sponsoring educational forums and debates on issues of importance to Israel.

The next meeting of the havurah, where goals will continue to be refined and an action plan implemented, will take place on Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 pm at CSZ. All CSZ members are invited and encouraged to attend. In the meantime, if you'd like to be included in group emails about the Israel Havurah, please contact Miki and Ron at goralsky@aol.com and rlezell@aol.com.

Condolences

Mark Mackler on the death of his father, Howard Mackler.

Cindy Icke on the death of her father, Hyman Icke.

Danny Kodmur on the death of his aunt and uncle, Barbara Faye Waxman Fiduccia and Daniel Fiduccia.

Allan Berenstein on the death of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

Geraldine Barr on the death of her father, Jerome Herschel Barr.

Daphne Stuart on the death of her cousin, Andrew West.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat and/or flowers in recent weeks:

- 4/20 Oneg and Flowers by **Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz** in honor of their 18th anniversary and by **the family of Eliana Tali Chalmers Frank** in honor of Eliana's naming ceremony.
- 5/4 Oneg by **Peter and Denise Hirschmann and friends of Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson** in honor of Jo and Elizabeth's engagement blessing.
- 5/4 Flowers by **Simon Glinsky** in honor of his family's visit.
- 5/11 Oneg by **Michael Avrut** in appreciation of CSZ.
- 5/18 Oneg by **Tony Harris** in loving memory of his father, Howard Harris.

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Same Gender Parenting Agreements & Disputes



Classifieds

LOOKING FOR AN "UNCLE MAX"
Lesbian mom seeks Jewish childless male role model for my little boy, almost 4. If you desire adventure, exploration and the gift of a child's adoration, please call (415) 824-4266.

HOUSESITTERS AVAILABLE.
Looking to housesit in SF for a week or two during the summer. Will take excellent care of your home. Please contact Lea Salem in the CSZ office at 415-861-6932 or lsalem@shaarzahav.org for information.

NEED A HOME:
CSZ Program Director and her two well behaved canine friends, Pablo and Spirit, need a home. Please contact Dahlia Gross at cszdahlia@yahoo.com or 415/575-4961 with any leads.

HEBREW/TORAH TROPE INSTRUCTION.
Private tutoring/groups. Over 100 satisfied customers since 1999! Contact Kenny Altman at 415-379-9783, kennyaltman@kennyaltman.com.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:
Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209

PSYCHOTHERAPY:
Life transition, grief and loss, HIV/AIDS, substance use, mood disorder, dot-com angst. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#LCS15289), 415-401-9482.

SEEKING SUMMER HOUSE-SIT:
Former CSZ member and Bat Mitzvah, now in college, is seeking house-sitting or sublet for the summer. Care for your plants and dogs, available from mid-June to mid-September. Contact via email to drbillinkoff@amherst.edu

June Anniversaries

- 2 Beth Ross and Laura Trupin
Lillian Schaechner and
Elaine Weissman
- 7 Stephanie Godt and
Ellen Novogrodsky
- 9 Joe Hample and
Reineres Susbilla
- 10 Steven Diller and
Ira Johnson
Frank Yellin and
Mark Showalter
Eric Temple and
Garry Schermann
- 13 Dan Bellm and
Rabbi Yoel Kahn
- 16 Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem
- 18 Rabbi Eric Weiss and
Dan Alpert
- 19 Dana Vinicoff and
Sarah Peterson
- 21 Shelley M. Samuels
and Robin Dubner
- 24 Lyssa Friedman and
Daphne Stuart
- 25 Shelley Adler and
Nancy Showen
Sue Bojdak and Deb Yates
Beth Rubin and David Wish

Members' Yahrzeits

- 2 Mark Feldman
- 8 Robert Nehemiah Mackey
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 Bill Valentine

East Bay Services

Friday, June 15, 7:15 pm

Vegetarian potluck, candle lighting and zimrot

Jeanette Nichols

3865 Forrest Hill Ave. Oakland

510/531-4885

June Birthdays

- 1 Donald Abrams
- 2 Neil Silverzweig
Nina Wouk
- 4 Hanya Barth
Marc Haberman
Ora Prochovnick
Lea Salem
- 5 Rick Crane
Katie Gulley
Gregory Ramos
- 6 Ma'ayan Barr Epstein
Adina Barr Epstein
Marsha Blachman
- 8 Marianne Balin
Brian Besser
- 9 Bobbie Becker
Lucy Cefalu
Laura Lowe
Glenn Shor
- 10 Claudia Bernard
Daniel Chesir
Rose Katz
- 11 Annie Winters
- 12 Susan Simpson
- 13 Rachel Pruyn Goldstein
- 15 Steve Wiesner
- 16 Michael Hockman
Christopher Hornby-Finch
Nancy Levin
Monica Levin
Shayna Prochovnick
- 17 Adam Bellm Kahn
Wayne Bender
Pieter de Haan
- 18 Susan Lubeck
- 19 Jim Cohen
Miki Goralsky
- 20 Susan Mizner
Larry Wexler
- 21 Leyna Bernstein
Eileen Levy
Richard Sinkoff
- 22 Sarita Groisser
Margaret Rossoff
Marc Wernick
- 23 Deborah Agre
Sacha Fisher
Nicole Grace
Lou Hirschmann
- 25 Dyan Dreisbach
Steve Weiner

Naches

To **Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson** on their engagement blessing.

To **Carol M. Cantwell** on graduating with honors in Economics from San Francisco State University.

To **Beth Rubin** on finishing her Ph.D. in Social Cultural Studies in Education at Berkeley and being appointed to a faculty position at Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education. (We will miss you David and Maya!)

To **Michael Schwartz** on receiving a post-doctoral fellowship in Neuropsychology at SF General Hospital.

To **Ben Bank** on becoming a United States citizen.

To **José Luis Moscovich** on being named Interim Executive Director of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

To **Aaron Buchbinder** on being accepted to the University of California, Santa Cruz and for graduating with honors from Sacred Heart.

To **Jeff Friedman** on passing his qualifying exams to become ABD in his Ph.D. program and for cutting the cord of his new nephew, Daniel Ilan.

To **Emily Newfield** on being accepted into the UCSF-UCB Joint Medical Program, a combined MS and MD degree program.

To **Leyna Bernstein** on her new position as Director of Consulting Services at the Management Center.

To **Alison Austin** on adding a new partner, LaCheryl E. Porter, to her law firm, The Austin Law Group.

To **Emily Newfield and Rachael Riley** on their wedding.

To **Rose Mallia** on her entrance into the Covenant.

- 26 Marc Lipschutz
- 27 Amanda Littauer
- 28 Lisa Katz
- 29 Emma Buchbinder
Eve Meyer